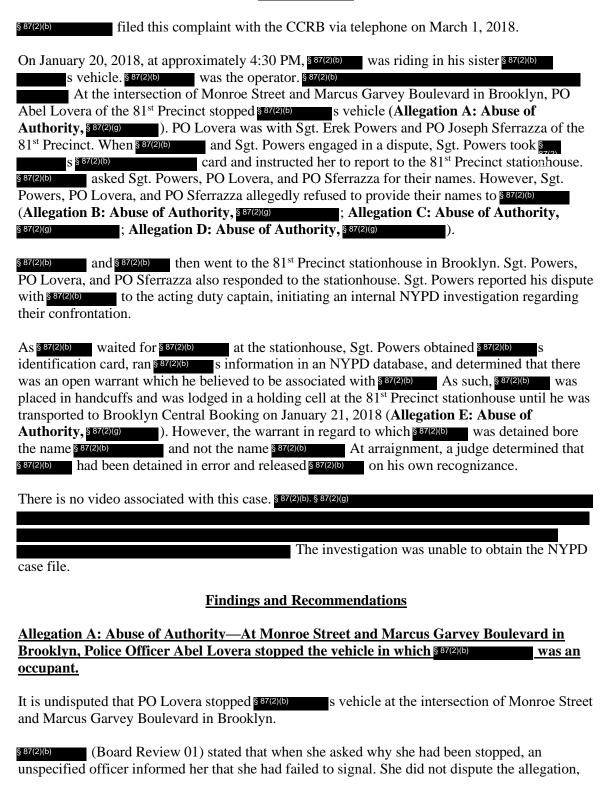
CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Investigator:		Team:	CCRB Case #:	☐ Force	;	Discourt.	U.S.
Samuel Ross		Squad #6	201801675	✓ Abus	e 🗆	O.L.	☐ Injury
Incident Date(s)		Location of Incident:		Precino	et: 18	Mo. SOL	EO SOL
Saturday, 01/20/2018 4:30 PM		Monroe Street and Marcus Garvey Boulevard; 81st Precinct stationhouse		81	7	/20/2019	7/20/2019
Date/Time CV Reported		CV Reported At:	How CV Reported:	Date/	Γime Rec	eived at CCl	RB
Thu, 03/01/2018 11:05 AM		CCRB	Phone	Thu, ()3/01/201	8 11:05 AM	1
Complainant/Victim	Type	Home Addre	SS				
Witness(es)		Home Addre	ess				
Subject Officer(s)	Shield	TaxID	Command				
1. SSA Erek Powers	05297	944907	081 PCT				
2. POM Abel Lovera	01160	954081	081 PCT				
3. POM Joseph Sferrazza	19468	951237	081 PCT				
Witness Officer(s)	Shield N	o Tax No	Cmd Name				
1. POM Franky Joseph	30527	940320	081 PCT				
2. SGT Nik Alix	01274	936119	081 PCT				
3. POM Jonathan Forte	21722	962409	081 PCT				
4. SGT Shaun Tanner	03691	933401	077 PCT				
5. SGT Michael Petrone	02563	937285	081 PCT				
6. DTS Courtney Wallace	07125	898737	081 PCT				
7. POM Shawn Deluca	21706	959590	081 PCT				
Officer(s)	Allegatio	on .]	Investiga	ator Recon	nmendation
A.POM Abel Lovera		at Monroe Street and Ma a, Police Officer Abel Lo (7(2)(b) was an o	overa stopped the ve				
B.SSA Erek Powers	Abuse: A	Abuse: At Monroe Street and Marcus Garvey Boulevard in Brooklyn, Sergeant Erek Powers refused to provide his name to \$87(2)(6)					
C.POM Abel Lovera	Brooklyn	Abuse: At Monroe Street and Marcus Garvey Boulevard in Brooklyn, Police Officer Abel Lovera refused to provide his name to \$87(2)(b)					
D.POM Joseph Sferrazza	Brooklyr	at Monroe Street and Ma n, Police Officer Joseph to \$87(2)(b)					
E.SSA Erek Powers		at the 81st Precinct static	onhouse, Sergeant En	rek			

Case Summary



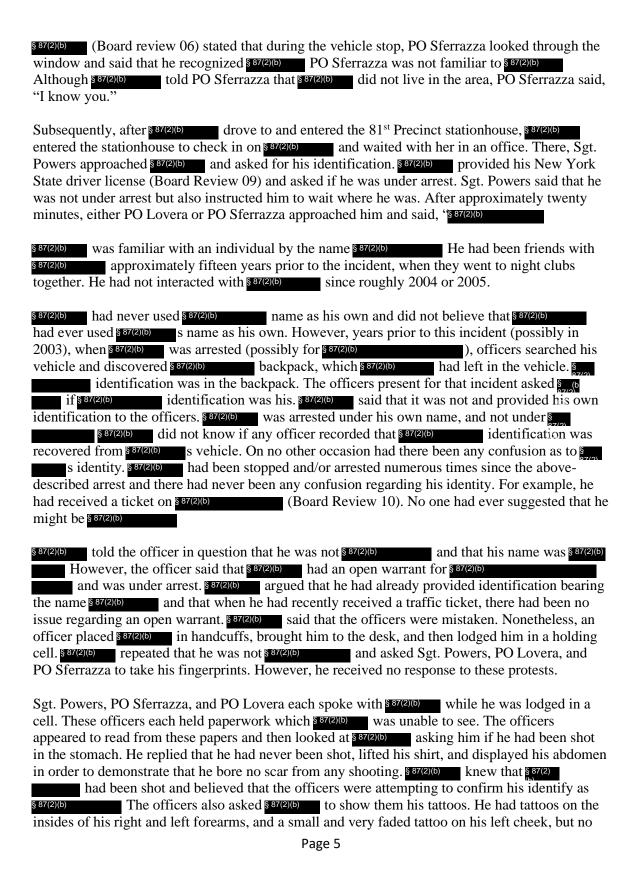
as she did not know specifically whether or not she had failed to use her signals, but believed that she may have failed to do so. She did not receive a summons.

PO Lovera (Board Review 02) was the operator of the officers' vehicle. Sgt. Powers (Board Review 03) sat in the front passenger seat. Both PO Lovera and Sgt. Powers stated that while they were on patrol, they observed (\$57(2)(b)) s vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed and changing lanes multiple times without signaling. PO Lovera stated that he initiated the vehicle stop without any instruction from Sgt. Powers and solely on the bases of these observed VTL violations.

According to New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law 1163(c), a driver must use a signal to indicate an intention to change lanes (Board Review 04). Further, according to *People v. Robinson* 97 N.Y.2d 341 (2001), an officer may lawfully stop a vehicle when he or she has probable cause to believe that the driver of the vehicle has committed a traffic violation (Board Review 05).

§ 87(2)(g)
Allegation B: Abuse of Authority—At Monroe Street and Marcus Garvey Boulevard in
Brooklyn, Sergeant Erek Powers refused to provide his name to \$87(2)(0)
Allegation C: Abuse of Authority—At Monroe Street and Marcus Garvey Boulevard in
Brooklyn, Police Officer Abel Lovera refused to provide his name to 387(2)(b)
Allegation D: Abuse of Authority—At Monroe Street and Marcus Garvey Boulevard in
Brooklyn, Police Officer Joseph Sferrazza refused to provide his name to \$87(2)(b)
stated that after she provided her NYPD identification card to PO Lovera, PO
Sferrazza looked into the rear seat and said to \$87(2)(b) "You look familiar." \$87(2)(b) took
this statement to mean that PO Sferrazza believed \$87(2)(b) to be a criminal. She did not take it to
be an innocuous remark. S87(2)(b) said, "Come on man, chill." PO Sferrazza said, "What do
you mean, 'chill?' Would you like it if an officer told you to chill?"
Sgt. Powers then asked §87(2)(b) to exit the vehicle and walk with him to the rear. She
complied and spoke with him at the rear of her vehicle. She explained that she did not like how
PO Sferrazza had spoken to her brother. Sgt. Powers spoke to her but she did not listen to his
remarks. She was frustrated and replied in a disinterested manner.
Sgt. Powers then turned to return to the officers' vehicle. PO Lovera and PO Sferrazza turned
with him. As they turned, \$87(2)(6) asked them all, "Can I get your names?" The request was
directed to all three officers, who were each standing within two feet of her. She believed that
they all heard her request. Sgt. Powers turned toward her and said, "Oh, you want names? Give
me your ID and ten-two to the eight-one," meaning he wished her to report to the 81st Precinct
stationhouse. Neither Sgt. Powers, nor PO Lovera, nor PO Sferrazza provided their name to
at this time or at any later time during the incident. The officers reentered their vehicle
and drove away.

stated that later, at the 81 st Precinct stationhouse, either PO Lovera or PO Sferrazza told her that they had been frustrated with her request for their names because they feared she intended to file a CCRB complaint against them.
(Board Review 06) stated that when \$87(2)(b) exited the vehicle to speak with Sgt. Powers, he was initially unable to hear their conversation. When their tones became elevated, however, he heard \$87(2)(b) say to the officers, "Give me your badge numbers." \$87(2)(b) turned and saw PO Lovera and PO Sferrazza standing next to \$87(2)(b) at the rear of the vehicle. He did not see Sgt. Powers at this time. Neither PO Lovera nor PO Sferrazza responded to \$87(2)(b) s request.
stated that he first learned about this incident via a telephone call from explained to him that following a dispute with a sergeant during a vehicle stop, she had asked the sergeant and his officers for their names. According to \$87(2)(b) the sergeant asked, "You want names?" and instructed her to report to his command. \$87(2)(b) asked \$7(2)(c) if she had eventually obtained the sergeant's name, and she said that she had not. \$87(2)(c) that one of the officers in question told her that she should never have asked the officers for their names.
Sgt. Powers (Board Review 03) confirmed that Sazeno asked him for his name during their conversation at the intersection of Marcus Garvey Boulevard and Monroe Street in Brooklyn. He also stated that she asked him for his shield number. According to Sgt. Powers, he verbally identified himself to Sazeno providing her with his name and shield number. She was standing immediately in front of him and he was confident that she heard his response. She never indicated that she believed that she had not been provided with the requested information. Sgt. Powers never heard sazeno provided with the requested information. Sgt.
Both PO Sferrazza (Board Review 08) and PO Lovera (Board Review 02) denied that \$2.50 ever asked for their names and denied that they refused to provide her with any identifying information. They also stated that they were unable to hear the content of \$2.50 s conversation with Sgt. Powers at the intersection of Marcus Garvey Boulevard and Monroe Street in Brooklyn and did not know whether or not \$8.7(2)(6) ever asked Sgt. Powers for his name. They both stated that \$8.7(2)(6) never appeared to address them directly. Lastly, while they both confirmed that they discussed the vehicle stop with \$8.7(2)(6) at the 81 st Precinct stationhouse, they denied that there was any conversation about her having made any request for their names.
§ 87(2)(g)
Allegation D:Abuse of Authority—At the 81st Precinct stationhouse, Sergeant Erek Powers detained §87(2)(b)
It is undisputed that §87(2)(b) was detained pursuant to an open bench warrant bearing the name §87(2)(b)
Page A



remained in the holding cell until the morning of January 21, 2018, at approximately 10:00 AM or 11:00 AM. Officers who were previously uninvolved in the incident transported of Brooklyn Defender him to central booking. There, he informed his attorney, §87(2)(6) Services, that he was not § 87(2)(b) obtained a movement slip bearing a which she subsequently provided to \$87(2)(6) and to the photograph of § 87(2)(b) investigation (Board Review 11). When \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) appeared in court, the judge agreed that \$87(2)(b) was not \$87(2)(b) The judge released \$87(2)(b) who was not charged with any criminal offense. As noted above, § 87(2)(b) (Board Review 01) testified that during the vehicle stop, PO Sferrazza said that he recognized \$87(2)(b) \$87(2)(b) took this to mean that PO Sferrazza believed \$87(2)(b) might be a criminal. She later spoke with PO Sferrazza at the 81st Precinct stationhouse, but he did not clarify why he had said that he recognized \$87(2)(b) \$87(2)(b) (§ 87(2)(b) and § 87(2)(b) (§ 87(2)(b) boyfriend) (Board Review 07), § 87(2)(b) (§ 87(2)(b) s fiancée) (Board Review 13) mother) (Board Review 12), and § 87(2)(b) also visited the 81st Precinct stationhouse on the evening in question. They each learned that officers detained § 87(2)(b) pursuant to an open warrant. However, neither § 87(2)(b) nor § 87(2)(b) nor § 87(2)(b) had any further insight into the reasoning behind his detention. stated that when she returned to the 81st Precinct stationhouse on the morning of January 21, 2018, \$87(2)(b) was still in a holding cell. An officer asked her if \$87(2)(b) used any aliases. \$37(2)(b) had no knowledge of \$37(2)(b) ever using an alias and told the officer so. Later the same day, when officers transported \$87(2)(b) to Brooklyn Central Booking for arraignment, \$87(2)(b) followed. At central booking, \$87(2)(b) spoke with \$87(2)(b) transport officers, who told her that (\$87(2)(b) would be arraigned under a false name because he had used a false name when he had been arrested, and that this false name then appeared on a was present in the courtroom for \$87(2)(b) s arraignment, where she learned that he was detained under the name \$87(2)(b) had never heard this name before. of Brooklyn Defender Services (Board Review 14) stated that \$87(2)(b) was returned on a warrant for an individual named § 87(2)(b) (or some similar name; she was uncertain). At arraignment, §87(2)(b) was provided with the movement slip pertaining to § \$ 87(2) arrest for a violation of \$ 87(2)(b) (\$ 87(2)(b) explained to \$87(2)(b) that he was not \$87(2)(b) and at arraignment the judge agreed that was not § 87(2)(b) was therefore released. s identification (Board Review 09) and \$87(2)(b) movement slip (Board Review 11) as evidence that §87(2)(b) and §87(2)(b) were not the same individual. After an off-the record discussion, the Honorable Judge Ruth Shillingford pointed out that the two individuals' respective dates of birth did not match and that, based on the photo included on the movement slip, \$87(2)(b) appeared to be significantly larger than \$87(2)(b) Judge Shillingford also stated

other tattoos. However, the officers told him that they believed he had additional tattoos and they

asked to see them. He informed that that he had none.

that while there was some similarity between their facial features, she believed them to be two different individuals. She released \$87(2)(b) on his own recognizance.

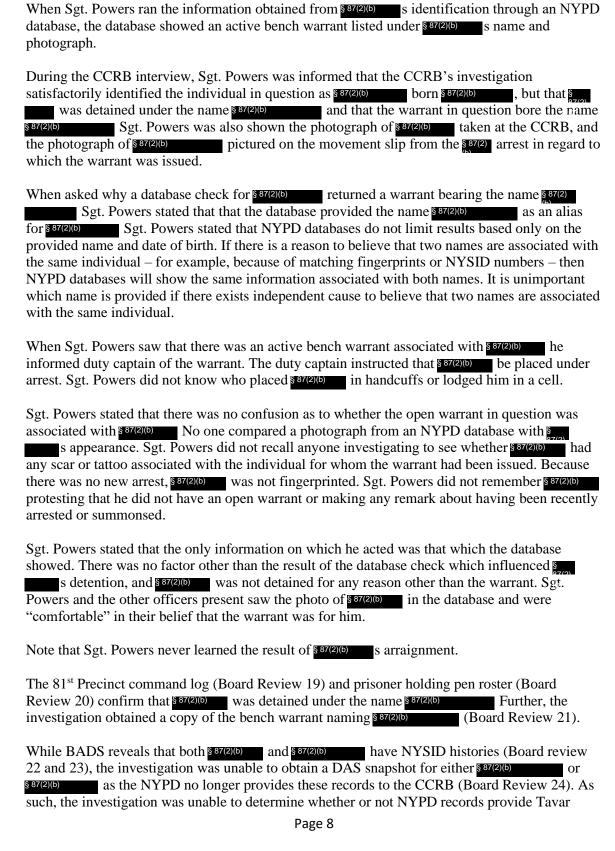
Note that the investigation obtained a photograph of ser(2)(0) at the time of his March 13, 2018 CCRB interview (Board Review 16). Also note that the investigation received a negative result for \$87(2)(0) arrest photo (Board Review 17).

PO Sferrazza (Board Review 08) confirmed that during the vehicle stop, he announced that he believed he recognized \$57(2)(0) However, PO Sferrazza stated that he was uncertain why he believed he might recognize \$57(2)(0) and characterized this remark as innocuous. He was not concerned with \$57(2)(0) s criminal history. Both PO Sferrazza and PO Lovera (Board Review 02) stated that they were speaking with \$57(2)(0) in the 81st Precinct muster room when officers discovered an open warrant associated with \$57(2)(0) and consequently detained him. Both officers stated that they were in no way involved in the decision to detain \$57(2)(0) and learned only that that he had been detained pursuant to an open warrant. Neither PO Sferrazza nor PO Lovera performed any database check for \$57(2)(0) or saw the result of any pertinent database check. Further, they each stated that they were unaware of any discrepancy between the name on \$57(2)(0) s identification and the name on the warrant in question. They took no steps to confirm \$57(2)(0) s identify, such as comparing a photograph or descriptions of scars or tattoos to \$57(2)(0) s actual appearance. According to PO Lovera, they deferred to Sgt. Powers under these circumstances.

Sgt. Powers (Board Review 03) stated that he had no knowledge of \$87(2)(0) prior to this incident and that neither \$87(2)(0) sidentity nor his criminal history were of concern during the vehicle stop. Sgt. Powers was concerned only with \$87(2)(0) so behavior. Sgt. Powers did not recall \$87(2)(0) so name as of the date of his CCRB interview. According to Sgt. Powers, he became concerned with \$87(2)(0) only when \$87(2)(0) arrived at the \$81st Precinct stationhouse of his own accord. Sgt. Powers had no information about \$87(2)(0) so criminal history or any possible aliases. However, an unidentified duty captain, who had responded to the \$1st Precinct stationhouse in order to investigate the dispute between Sgt. Powers and \$87(2)(0) asked \$87(2)(0) so for his identification. This was typical procedure for an investigation regarding a confrontation involving an off-duty member of service. The investigating duty captain wanted to know with whom the off-duty member of service associated. Sgt. Powers did not know to whom \$87(2)(0) gave his identification, but the identification was ultimately provided to Sgt. Powers.

Sgt. Powers checked the information from \$87(2)(b) s identification in an NYPD database. He did not recall which database he used. He entered the name and date of birth from the identification, but did not recall this specific name or date of birth at the time of the CCRB interview. During the CCRB interview, Sgt. Powers was shown a copy of \$87(2)(b) s photo identification. Sgt. Powers did not recall if the information on this identification was the same as the information on the identification which \$87(2)(b) provided at the 81st Precinct stationhouse that day. Sgt. Powers did not recall specifically if the identification in question bore the name or if it bore a different name.

During the CCRB interview, Sgt. Powers was shown a record of warrant audit database checks performed for str(2)(6) which showed that Sgt. Powers performed the first such check on January 20, 2018, at 6:10 PM (Board Review 18).



Johnson's name as an alias for \$87(2)(b) or whether the warrant for \$87(2)(b) is associated with \$87(2)(b) in NYPD records.
It is undisputed that as of January 20, 2018, there existed an open bench warrant for As noted above, Sgt. Powers testified that when he performed a database check for the information obtained from sidentification, the database results showed that the name was an alias for savely and thus that there was an open warrant for Neither PO Sferrazza nor PO Lovera saw the result of the database check and they had no information as to the discrepancy between the name on the warrant and the name of the individual who was detained in regards.
§ 87(2)(g)
§ 87(2)(g)
§ 87(2)(g)

Civilian and Officer CCRB Histories

- This is the first CCRB complaint to which \$87(2)(b) has been a party (Board Review 25).
 This is the first CCRB complaint to which \$87(2)(b) has been a party (Board Review
- Sgt. Powers has been a member of service for eleven years and has been a subject in seventeen prior CCRB complaints with forty-three allegations, of which five were substantiated (Board Review 27):

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- o Case #201407556 involved a substantiated entry and search allegation. The Board recommended charges and the NYPD imposed no penalty.
- Case #201606619 involved a substantiated entry and search allegation and a substantiated allegation that he wrongfully authorized the issuance of a summons. The Board recommended Command Discipline A and the NYPD imposed Command Discipline A.
- Case #201608616 involved a substantiated threat of force allegation. The Board recommended Command Discipline A and the NYPD imposed no penalty.
- Case #201707372 involved a substantiated discourtesy allegation. The Board recommended Instructions and the NYPD has not yet reached a disposition.
- PO Lovera has been a member of the NYPD for five years and has been a subject in six other CCRB complaints with ten allegations, none of which have been substantiated (Board Review 28). §87(2)(9)
- PO Sferrazza has been a member of the NYPD for seven years and has been a subject in three prior CCRB complaints with four allegations, none of which were substantiated (Board Review 29). § 87(2)(9)

Mediation, Civil and Criminal Histories

- This complaint was not suitable for mediation.
- \$87(2)(6) filed a Notice of Claim with the City of new York claiming false arrest and seeking \$5,000,000.00 as redress (Board Review 30). There is no 50H hearing scheduled.

• § 87(2)(b)			
Squad No.:			
Investigator:	Signature	Print Title & Name	Date
Squad Leader:	Signature	Print Title & Name	Date
Reviewer:	Signature	Print Title & Name	Date